

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Chris Comuntzis (Reg. No. 31,097) on 20 October 2009.

This application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 9 – 20.

Replace claim 1, 4, 5 and 7 as follows.

Claim 1:

A server computer comprising:

a store arranged to store at least one computer file ~~at said server computer;~~

a store arranged to store at least one digital signature ~~at said server computer;~~

each computer file having an associated digital signature created using a signing key

~~from at least one of a plurality of third parties, said signature being stored on said server computer;~~

a receiver arranged to receive a request from at least one other computer for access to at least one computer file stored on said server computer;

means arranged to retrieve said at least one requested computer file in response to said request;

means arranged to retrieve the digital signature or signatures directly at said server computer, associated with said at least one requested computer file in response to said request;

means arranged to validate directly at said server computer the digital signature or signatures associated with said at least one requested computer file in response to said request; and

means arranged to deny said other computer access to said at least one requested computer file if the digital signature or signatures associated with each respective requested computer file is invalid;

Deleted: invalid

wherein, in the case where said digital signature is invalid, no further digital signature is applied by said server computer and maliciously altered documents are not sent to said other computer by said server computer.

Claim 4:

A server computer arranged to store at least one file, at least one digital signature, each computer file having an associated digital signature created using a signing key, said server computer being arranged to perform the operation of:

receiving a connection from another computer;

receiving at said server computer, a request from said other computer for access to a computer file stored on said server computer;

in response to said request, retrieving said requested computer file;

in response to said request, retrieving the digital signature or signatures, directly at said server computer, associated with said at least one requested computer file; said computer file having an associated digital signature created using a signing key from at least one of a plurality of third parties, said signature being stored on said server computer;

in response to said request, validating, directly at said server computer, the digital signature or signatures associated with said at least one requested file; and

denying said other computer access to said at least one requested computer file if the digital signature or signatures associated with said at least one requested computer file is

invalid;

Deleted: invalid

wherein, in the case where said digital signature is invalid, no further digital signature is applied by said server computer and maliciously altered documents are not sent to said other computer by said server computer;

Claim 5:

A computer implemented method of operating a server computer comprising:
using at least one processor of a server computer to perform the following:

receiving, at said server computer, a request from at least one other computer for access to at least one computer file stored on said server computer; each said computer file having an associated unique digital signature created using a signing key from at least one of a plurality of third parties, said signature being stored on said server computer;

in response to said request, retrieving said at least one requested computer file;

in response to said request, retrieving the digital signature or signatures, directly at said server computer, associated with said at least one requested computer file;

in response to said request, validating directly at said server computer the unique digital signature or signatures associated with said at least one requested computer file; and providing said other computer with access to said at least one requested computer file only if the digital signature or signatures associated with said at least one requested computer file is valid;

Deleted: valid

wherein, in the case where said digital signature is invalid, no further digital signature is applied by said server computer and maliciously altered documents are not sent to said other computer by said server computer.

Claim 7:

A method of operating a computer system comprising at least one server computer, client computers and a network interconnecting them, said method comprising:

storing files at a server computer, said files being associated with at least one respectively corresponding digital signature; each of said files having an associated unique digital signature created using a signing key from at least one of a plurality of third parties, said signature being stored on said server computer;

receiving at said server computer a request from a client computer for a file stored at the server computer; in response to said received request, retrieving at least one digital signature associated with the requested file and checking the validity directly at said server computer of the at least one digital signature corresponding to the requested file; and

sending the requested file to the requesting client computer only if its associated at least one digital signature is found to be valid;

Deleted: valid

wherein, in the case where said digital signature is invalid, no further digital signature is applied by said server computer and maliciously altered documents are not sent to said client computer by said server computer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 – 8 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The above mentioned claims are allowable over prior arts because the CPA (Cited Prior Art) of record fails to teach or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with the specific added limitations recited in claims 7 and 42 (& associated dependent claims).

The present invention is directed to a method for operating a computer system comprising at least one server computer, client computers and a network interconnecting them, said method comprises storing files at a server computer, said files being associated with at least one respectively corresponding digital signature; each of said files having an associated unique digital signature created using a signing key from at least one of a plurality of third parties, said signature being stored on said server computer. No singular art disclosing, nor motivation to combine has been found to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention of receiving at said server computer a request from a client computer for a file stored at the server computer; in response to said received request, retrieving at least one digital signature associated with the requested file and checking the validity directly at said server computer of the at least one digital signature corresponding to the requested file; and sending the requested file to the requesting client computer only if its associated at least one digital signature is found to be valid; wherein, in the case where said digital signature is invalid, no further digital

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signature is applied by said server computer and maliciously altered documents are not sent to said client computer by said server computer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LONGBIT CHAI whose telephone number is (571)272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William R. Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Longbit Chai/

Primary Patent Examiner
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11/11/2009